I'm human

Sherlock holmes ielts reading answers

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The esteemed status of pearls has been a hallmark of wealth and power throughout history. Ancient Roman women would adorn themselves with pearls before bed to remind themselves of their riches upon waking. Pearls were once more valuable than diamonds until jewelers learned to cut gems. In Eastern cultures, such as Persia, ground pearl powder was used as medicine to cure ailments like heart disease and epilepsy. Pearls are classified into three categories: natural, cultured, and imitation. When an irritant enters the mollusk's body, it secretes fluid to coat the irritant, gradually accumulating layers around it until a lustrous pearl forms. Cultured pearls undergo a similar process, with one key difference – the nucleus is placed inside the oyster through surgical implantation. This results in larger cores in cultured pearls compared to natural ones. The size of the nucleus doesn't affect the beauty or durability of the pearl as long as there are sufficient layers of nacre. Pearls can originate from both saltwater and freshwater sources, with high-quality pearls often coming from saltwater sources. Freshwater pearls may have irregular shapes and a puffed rice appearance. However, the individual merits of the pearl determine its value more than the source. Culturing pearls involves various methods, such as using fresh or sea water shells, transplanting grafts into the mantle or gonad, adding spherical beads, or producing nonbeaded pearls. The process typically takes several years, with mussels reaching maturity and then being transplanted an irritant. It can take approximately three to five years for a pearl to reach its full size. Among produced pearls, only about 5% meet the quality standards for jewelry makers. Imitation pearls are created using different methods, such as dipping beads into fish scales or other materials, with the Island of Mallorca in Spain being renowned for its imitation pearl industry. The quality of pearls can be deceiving due to a thin coating that often wears off, making it difficult to distinguish imitation from real ones. A simple test is to take a bite – fake pearls will glide through your teeth, while genuine pearls feel gritty. Evaluating pearls involves considering factors like size, shape, color, surface quality, and luster. The value of pearls decreases in the following order: natural pearls, cultured pearls, and imitation pearls, which are essentially worthless. To determine whether a pearl is natural or cultured, jewelers can send it to a gem lab for an X-ray test. High-quality natural pearls are extremely rare, with Japan's Akoya pearls being one of the glossiest varieties. The Persian Gulf, particularly around Bahrain, was once renowned for producing high-quality pearls, but the discovery of oil reserves in the 1930s led to the destruction of these pearls due to contaminated water. Today, India has the largest stock of natural pearls, with a significant portion originating from Bahrain. Living with Holmes at his famous address, 221B Baker Street, London, where many mysteries began, Holmes had clients from all walks of life - from struggling pawnbrokers and governesses to wealthy aristocrats and businessmen across Europe. Initially, he was only well-known within certain circles but worked closely with Scotland Yard, a police force. His success, coupled with Watson's stories being published, made him an extremely famous detective. So many people called for his help instead of the police that by 1895, Holmes had "overwhelming practice." Even high-ranking officials like Prime Ministers and royalty would visit him at 221B Baker Street to ask for his assistance. Some clients offered double pay, indicating they were willing to pay more than the standard rate. In one case, he was paid a 6,000-pound fee, a sum equivalent to fourteen times the annual income of an average young professional. However, Watson noted that Holmes would decline cases from wealthy and well-known individuals if he lost interest. According to Watson, Holmes had a bohemian lifestyle and personal habits, being fond of cleanliness like a cat. Yet, he was also known for his untidiness, with papers scattered everywhere. He kept cigars in the coal-scuttle, tobacco in a slipper, and unanswered letters on his mantelpiece. His habit of keeping documents drove his fellow-lodger to madness, and his rooms were filled with stacks of manuscripts and books that no one could burn or claim as their own. Watson was the exception among Holmes's acquaintances; otherwise, he avoided casual company. In "The Gloria Scott," Holmes mentioned having only one friend in college for two years: "I wasn't a sociable man, Watson. I never mingled with men of my year." The detective could go without food when deeply engaged on a case, claiming that the faculties became refined when starved. He enjoyed music and playing the violin or listening to Wagner and Pablo de Sarasate's compositions. Holmes was both energetic and dispassionate, sometimes using showmanship in his cases by hiding his tactics and evidence until the very end to impress observers. His colleagues tolerated his willingness to bend the truth on behalf of clients who lied to the police or broke into houses when he believed it justified. The first two Sherlock Holmes stories, "A Study in Scarlet" and "The Sign of the Four," received positive reviews, but it was the publication of the first six short stories featuring the characters that made him extremely popular in 1891 with "The Strand." Sherlock Holmes' meteoric rise to fame in Britain and America culminated in him becoming a beloved celebrity. In 1893, when Conan Doyle seemingly killed off Holmes, public outcry reached unprecedented levels, prompting over 20,000 readers to cancel their subscriptions. The pressure ultimately led Doyle to revive the character. While not the first fictional detective, Sherlock Holmes' iconic status as the best-known has endured. The franchise's massive popularity spawned more than 25,000 plays, films, TV programs, and other adaptations before the turn of the millennium. Guinness World Records lists Holmes as the most appeared literary character in film and television history. His enduring reputation and success have led many to believe he is a real person, not just a fictional creation. Sherlock's influence on mystery writing and mainstream culture has been profound, with original stories and adaptations spanning over a century. The character has inspired countless imitators, including other "peculiar gentleman detective" characters like Hercule Poirot, published in 1920. His impact on the crime fiction genre is also undeniable, paving the way for respectable storytelling that appeals to readers from diverse backgrounds. Interestingly, many fans sent letters to Holmes' fictional address, 221B Baker Street, which never existed in reality. However, those letters began arriving at the Abbey National building when it was built in 1932, leading some to believe that Sherlock Holmes was indeed a real person. A survey of British teenagers in 2008 revealed that over half believed Sherlock Holmes to be a real human being. The character's enduring appeal has also inspired various antihero stories as an antidote to the traditional genius detective archetype. It's revealed that Sherlock Holmes' personal habits were quite untidy, which drove his fellow-lodger to madness. He kept cigars in a coal scuttle and misplaced items, showcasing his lack of concern for cleanliness. Moreover, it's mentioned that Holmes wasn't very social, having only one friend at college for two years, and he often went without food when deeply engaged mentally. Initially, Holmes worked with Scotland Yard, but as his reputation grew due to Watson's stories, he became more well-known. His clients ranged from poor individuals like pawnbrokers and governesses to wealthy aristocrats and businessmen in Europe. Many people believed that the Sherlock Holmes Museum was actually his residence, leading them to send him letters, which is now stored at the museum. **Rewritten Text (Method: INCREASE BURSTINESS - 30% probability)** Sherlock Holmes's penchant for **basking in public attention** is palpable. Notably, his colleagues overlooked his tendency to **manipulate facts** for clients' benefit, including **tampering with evidence**, **falsifying police reports**, or even **infiltrating private residences** when morally justified. *Key Insight:* His distaste for incomplete data drove him to meticulously analyze every shred of information, ultimately uncovering the truth. **Global Impact of Sherlock Holmes** Which statement accurately reflects the influence of Sherlock Holmes on the world? * Correct Answer: B * Explanation: The **Sherlock Holmes Museum** now archives numerous letters from fans who genuinely believed in his existence. This phenomenon underscores the depth of his global impact. **Unpacking the Detective's Legacy** * **Question 23:** An unforgettable detective in crime fiction history, Sherlock Holmes operated at an **almost incredible** level of reasoning. + **Answer:** INCREDIBLE * **Question 24:** The absence of **interest** led him to decline cases from even the most affluent clients. + **Answer:** INTEREST * **Question 25:** A **survey** demonstrated that many, especially British teenagers, confused Holmes with a real person, highlighting this widespread misunderstanding. + **Answer:** SURVEY * **Enduring Contributions:** Holmes's story has inspired numerous adaptations and significantly shaped the crime fiction genre. Holmes' character served as a counterbalance to the traditional image of a genius detective, inspiring various antihero stories in its wake. This is evident in the gentleman thief characters A.J.Raggles and Arsene Lupin, who embodied a more nuanced and intriguing persona, catering to readers seeking an antidote to the typical detective hero archetype.